

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the proposed district for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the district could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information		For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 118-5238	
District Name(s):	Pierce Street Renaissance Historic District		
District or Selected Building Date(s):	c. 1875-1975	<input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post	Open to the Public? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Main District Streets and/or Routes:	1300-1400 Blocks of Pierce Street, 1300 Block (odd numbers) Fillmore Street, 1300 Block Buchanan (even numbers) City: Lynchburg Zip: 24504		
County or Ind. City:	City of Lynchburg USGS Quad(s): Lynchburg		

Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: 5.06	Setting (choose one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features/Streetscapes: The district consists of several blocks of urban residential neighborhood in Lynchburg. Most of the streets have sidewalks on both sides and are lined with shade trees. The majority of the resources in the district have a shallow setback from the street, and are sited on small, narrow urban lots.	
Ownership Categories:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal

General District Information	
What were the historical uses of the resources within the proposed district? Examples include: Dwelling, Store, Barn, etc... Dwelling, Store, Church, Assembly Hall, Tennis Court	
What are the current uses? (if other than the historical use)	
Architectural styles or elements of buildings within the proposed district:	Folk Victorian, Craftsman, Queen Anne, Shingle, Colonial Revival
Architects, builders, or original owners of buildings within the proposed district:	Anne B. Spencer, R. Walter Johnson, William J. Calloway, etc.
Are there any known threats to this district? Deterioration of buildings	

General Description of District: (Please describe building patterns, types, features, and the general architectural quality of the proposed district. Include prominent materials and noteworthy building details within the district and a general setting and/or streetscape description.)

The proposed district includes approximately five acres of urban residential neighborhood between Lynchburg's College Hill and Kemper Street areas. The greater neighborhood is bounded on the northwest by Twelfth Street, on the southeast by the Lynchburg Expressway (U.S. 29 Business), and on the southwest by Kemper Street. R.S. Payne Elementary School lies approximately 600 feet to the north of the district's center, and Dunbar Middle School (formerly Dunbar High School), lies 1,800 feet to the northeast. The center of the Kemper Street Industrial Historic District (118-5292) is 1,000 feet to the southwest. Kemper and Twelfth Streets are lined with light commercial and industrial buildings.

Most buildings within the district are sited on small lots, and have shallow setbacks. Sidewalks and deciduous shade trees line most of the neighborhood's streets. Because of their small lot sizes, most buildings display minimal landscape features. Notable exceptions are the Anne Spencer House at 1313 Pierce Street, which has a long, narrow garden that extends the full depth of the block to Buchanan Street and the C.W. Seay House at 1300 Pierce Street, which boasts large trees in its front and side yards.

The district's buildings are primarily single-family residential, although two churches along with two combination store/dwellings also exist. Primary resources within the district were generally constructed between 1875 and 2009, and the average date of construction is 1914.

Architectural styles within the neighborhood vary, but the Folk Victorian and Craftsman styles tend to dominate the streetscape. Notable examples of Folk Victorian dwellings include the pair of two-story gable-fronted homes at 1314 and 1316 Pierce Street, which feature turned wood porch posts and lozenge-shaped wood shingles in their gable ends. Several homes exhibit influences of the Craftsman style, including the American Foursquare plan house at 1306 Pierce, which is marked by its stuccoed exterior and deep overhanging eaves (some might call classify this house as a *Prairie Box*). The neighborhood is home to three other American Foursquare houses, including the fully-shingled dwelling at 1311 Pierce Street and the half-shingled Walter Johnson House at 1422 Pierce. The diminutive single-covered home at 1309 Fillmore Street features a second (garret) level (cantilevered over the front porch) with a small balcony facing the street. Cedar shingles as an exterior siding material are not uncommon in the neighborhood, and can be found on a number of residences along with the church at 1309 Pierce Street.

The Anne Spencer House at 1313 Pierce Street is the district's best, but not only, example of a variant of Queen Anne architecture. While its façade is virtually identical to the neighboring Warwick Spencer, Jr., house at 1317 Pierce, the Anne Spencer house has been bestowed with numerous architectural refinements and details including glazed arch-topped doorways and a wrap-around porch with pergola.

The Colonial Revival style is best-represented by the Seay House at 1300 Pierce Street (one of only three brick buildings in the district), which features a pair of gabled dormers, an entry covered by a small portico with an arched pediment, and a water table with basket-weave brick. Other homes exhibit select Colonial Revival details, including the American Foursquare house at 1311 Pierce Street, which has a one-story, hipped-roof front porch with a modillioned cornice and Tuscan columns on brick piers.

While most resources in the district are devoid of outbuildings or notable site features with the exception of the Walter Johnson and Anne Spencer houses on Pierce Street. To the rear of the Walter Johnson House at 1422 Pierce Street is a small, weatherboard-sided shed with a gable roof that it set on a high concrete foundation at the lot's back corner with Fifteenth Street. In the side yard, two short metal posts (which supported the net) serve as the only visible reminders of Dr. Johnson's clay tennis court that served as the training ground for many African American athletes. To the rear of the Anne Spencer House at 1313 Pierce Street is a delightful garden space featuring an extensive pergola. A small concrete fishpond is located in the

southwestern end of the garden, and features a cast iron African head (called “Prince Ebo” by Anne Spencer), which was a gift from W.E.B. DuBois. The jewel of the garden is Spencer’s small cottage called “Edankraal” where Anne conducted much of her writing. The name Edankraal is derived from the first two letters of Anne and her husband Edward’s names, combined with *kraal* (an Afrikaans word for a southern African village or community). The shingled cottage has a small shed porch and an external greenstone chimney and fireplace/barbeque.

Inventory of Resources

Address	DHR ID No.	Date*	Name	Contributing Status
1300 Pierce	118-5238-0001	1950	Clarence Seay House	Contributing
1301 Pierce	118-5238-0002	1875	Wm. J. Calloway Store	Contributing
1306 Pierce	118-5238-0003	1924	Thornhill-Spencer House	Contributing
1309 Pierce	118-5238-0004	1875	Calloway Hall	Contributing
1310 Pierce	118-5238-0005	2009		Non-Contributing
1311 Pierce	118-5238-0006	1919	Nelson P. Spencer House	Contributing
1312 Pierce	118-5238-0007	1929	Reginald Bondurant House	Contributing
1313 Pierce	118-5238-0008, 118-0061	1904	Edward & Anne Spencer House	Contributing
1314 Pierce	118-5238-0009	1900	S.M. Tolley House	Contributing
1316 Pierce	118-5238-0010	1900	Mrs. S.A. Overstreet House	Contributing
1317 Pierce	118-5238-0011	1904	Warwick Spencer, Jr. House	Contributing
1321 Pierce	118-5238-0012	1875	Warwick Spencer, Sr. House	Contributing
1322 Pierce	118-5238-0013	1968		Contributing
1408 Pierce	118-5238-0014	1969		Contributing
1410 Pierce	118-5238-0015	1920	J.M. Phillips House	Contributing
1422 Pierce	118-5238-0016, 118-0225-0077	1911	Trigg-Johnson House	Contributing
1423 Pierce	118-5238-0017	1910	Pierce Street Market	Contributing
1518 14th	118-5238-0018	1900	R.A. Flynn House	Contributing
1306 Buchanan	118-5238-0019	1900	William Mitchell House	Contributing
1308 Buchanan	118-5238-0020	1900	H.C. Snead House	Contributing
1316 Buchanan	118-5238-0021	1910	Cullen-Weeden House	Contributing
1322 Buchanan	118-5238-0022	1900	Joanna Monroe House	Contributing
1301 Fillmore	118-5238-0023	1905	Humbles-Smith House	Contributing
1307 Fillmore	118-5238-0024	1877	Marshall Chapel A.M.E.	Contributing
1309 Fillmore	118-5238-0025	1933	John Yancey House	Contributing

*For the purposes of this PIF, dates were derived from the City of Lynchburg real estate database. Dates of construction are subject to change in light of future research.

Boundary and Period of Significance Justification: The boundaries of the proposed district include all properties fronting on the 1300 block of Pierce Street, the even-numbered side of the 1400 block of Pierce (along with 1423 Pierce), 1306 to 1322 (even) Buchanan Street, 1301-1309 (odd) Fillmore, and 1518 Fourteenth Street. These boundaries are similar, but not identical, to the boundaries of the locally-designated Pierce Street Renaissance Historic District. Additions to the local district include the resources on Buchanan and Fillmore Street and several vacant lots on Buchanan, Thirteenth, and Fourteenth Streets that are associated with other included primary resources. Properties included in the local district that are omitted from the proposed State and National district boundaries include five vacant lots on the southwest (odd-numbered) side of the 1400 block of Pierce Street along with the dwelling at 1409 Pierce, which was constructed in 1997.

The proposed boundaries include the bulk of the extant resources associated with the primarily African American cluster of homes, businesses, and civic buildings in the 1300 blocks of Buchanan, Pierce, and Fillmore Streets along with the 1400 block of Pierce Street dating from the late 19th century through the mid-

20th century. The boundaries were devised through a study of area maps,¹ Census records, and city directories. For example, to ensure that the constrained district boundary along Fillmore Street was justified, six decades Lynchburg City Directories between 1890 and 1940 were studied. During this period, all homes on the northeast (even-numbered) side of Fillmore Street were consistently occupied by whites. Homes on the southwest (odd-numbered) side of Fillmore between 1301 and 1309 were consistently occupied by blacks, while the remainder of the homes on that side of the block (1321-1323) were consistently occupied by whites. Local records and organizations (including the Anne Spencer House Museum & Garden and the Old City Cemetery) were then consulted to establish that the included resources were not simply occupied by one particular racial group, but that the occupants, in general, contributed to the advancement of the African American community (on a local, statewide, or national level) or the Lynchburg community as a whole.

Through this study, it appears that this small Pierce Street-centered neighborhood was home to an unusually-rich cluster of African American leaders over the course of multiple generations. A Period of Significance (POS) of 1875 to 1975 is proposed for this district. The POS begins in 1875 with the approximate date of construction of the Marshall Chapel A.M.E. Church on Fillmore Street along with Calloway Hall and Calloway Store on Pierce Street, and ends in 1975, the year of Anne Spencer's death. When the Anne Spencer House was listed in the NRHP in 1976, Periods of Significance were not determined, but the 2002 NRHP nomination for the Walter Johnson property includes an extended POS to 1971, the year of his death.

¹ 1877 Gray's Map of Lynchburg; 1891 Baist Map of Lynchburg; 1895, 1902, 1907, 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the proposed district. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Please list all sources of information. Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

By the 1860s, Lynchburg residential neighborhoods had expanded far beyond Diamond Hill, Federal Hill, Garland Hill, and other neighborhoods adjacent to the city's commercial center on the James River. Twelfth Street doubled as the Lynchburg & Salem Turnpike, and designated streets extended southward at least to Floyd Street. During the Civil War, an area roughly bounded by today's Twelfth, Sixteenth, Pierce, and Kemper Streets served as "Camp Davis," which served as a muster ground and camp for newly-recruited Confederate troops, particularly those entering the 2d Virginia Cavalry and 11th Virginia Infantry. Commanded by General Jubal Early, the facility, which lay adjacent to Henry Davis' estate called Spring Valley, contained "a number of one-story frame houses, which were built in rows," that served as officers' quarters.²

A decade later, the area had been annexed by the City of Lynchburg, and development had pushed farther south to a small stream known as "Boundary Brook." Five additional streets (Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan, Kemper, and Holliday) had been added, although they had been temporarily designated by the letters A through E, respectively. Like the older portion of Lynchburg, the neighborhood was divided into two-acre blocks, each divided into four half-acre lots. The named streets ran generally parallel to the James River, while the more narrow numbered streets ran perpendicular to the river.³ During this time, several of the abandoned Camp Davis buildings were converted into a freedmen's school and black Methodist church.⁴ By 1877, Marshall Chapel A.M.E. Church had been constructed at 1307 Fillmore Street.⁵

Also in 1877, African American William J. Calloway (1854-1907) purchased a portion of the Camp Davis property from William and Fannie Ford. Calloway was listed as working in one of Lynchburg's many tobacco factories in 1880, and resided with his uncle and aunt Winston and Ann Calloway on "B" (Pierce) Street between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets (the 1877 map of Lynchburg indicates the residence of an "M. [sic] Calloway" on B Street near what is known as Calloway Hall). By 1885, William was operating a grocery store at his large, newly-constructed building 1301 Pierce Street. The Calloway Store was one of the neighborhood's first African American-owned businesses. He and his new wife, Rebecca Pride (1855-1900) lived above the store for a number of years. Rebecca attended Hampton Institute in 1882 and hailed from one of Lynchburg's most revered black families, which had been free since the early Nineteenth century.⁶

By the mid-1880s, the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Pierce Street were quickly becoming a neighborhood of choice for African Americans. In 1887, 80% occupied houses in those two blocks of had black residents. This is remarkable when compared to the remaining twelve blocks of Pierce Street that, combined, only contained 32% African American occupants.⁷

Calloway also constructed a building at 1309 Pierce Street known as "Calloway Hall," which served as a neighborhood gathering place and market, where local farmers would sell eggs, produce, and other goods. In

² Christian, W. Asbury. "Lynchburg and its People." Lynchburg, Virginia: J.P. Bell Company, 1900. Pp. 198-199. Christian noted that several of the officers' houses were extant at the time of his book's printing in 1900.

³ Gray's Map of Lynchburg, 1877

⁴ White, Jane B. "Pierce Street Renaissance Historic District, Lynchburg, Virginia" (brochure). Lynchburg, Virginia: Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum. 2012.

⁵ The dwelling next door at 1309 Fillmore likely served as a rectory for the church since its construction (the first house was built between 1902 and 1907, followed by the present dwelling in 1933). The house was occupied by the Rev. William C. McDowell and Rev. R.T. Timberlake in 1910, followed by the Rev. D.A. Blake in 1920, the Rev. David W. Washington in 1930, and the Rev. Isaac Gray in 1933. Beginning in 1934, city directories list occupants other than clergy at 1309 Fillmore (1910, 1920, 1930, 1933, 1934 Lynchburg City Directories; 1910 United States Census, Population Schedule; 1902, 1907, 1951 Sanborn Insurance Company Maps).

⁶ 1880 United States Census, Population Schedule; 1880, 1885 Lynchburg City Directories; "The Southern Workman," June 1900, Volume 9, page 377.

⁷ 1887 Lynchburg City Directory

the winter of 1897, notable black teacher Amelia Perry Pride (1857-1932) spearheaded the creation of an “old folks home” at Winston Calloway’s former residence (demolished circa 1900) at 1311 Pierce Street. This facility was called the “Dorchester Home,” in tribute to a resident of Dorchester, Massachusetts who donated funds for its creation. A contemporary publication stated that Pride had enlisted the support of over one hundred area ladies to provide fuel, food, and clothing for the elderly women (mostly former slaves) who resided there. At the Turn of the Century, the home was moved around the corner to 1609 Thirteenth Street (demolished), but by 1904 had returned to Pierce Street, where it occupied Calloway Hall (which had been operating as a “colored mission”) until 1910.⁸

In 1900, the 800 through 1200 blocks of Pierce Street were completely occupied by white families, as were the 1500 and 1600 blocks of the street. In the 1300 and 1400 blocks, 9 out of 13, or 69% of the homes were occupied by African Americans.⁹

In 1904, Warwick Spencer (1847-1927), along with his sons Warwick, Jr. and Edward, purchased approximately three-quarters of an acre in the southeastern half of the 1300 block of Pierce Street.¹⁰ Warwick and his wife Mary Susan Payne (1848-1936) were both born into slavery. Following the Civil War, they lived on a farm in Appomattox County and purchased property in Lynchburg (at what would become known as 1800 Holliday Street) in 1872.¹¹ Warwick, a foreman at the J.H. Heald & Co. bark mill, had acquired several additional properties near his Holliday Street home and Fishing Creek during the 1880s. Most of these acquisitions, including the lot on Pierce Street, involved trustee or commissioner sales, which probably placed Warwick on a “level playing field” with other buyers and helped him gain real estate at reasonable prices.

Warwick and Mary were active supporters of their community. In 1895, they donated \$10.00 to a fundraising campaign of the Virginia Seminary (now Virginia University of Lynchburg), and Warwick was a trustee of the Eighth Street Baptist Church in the late 1890s.¹²

At the time of the Spencers’ purchase on Pierce Street, the lot contained a “five room house” at the western corner of Pierce and Fourteenth Streets (1321 Pierce) along with a small store building, which had been demolished by 1907. Warwick and Mary moved into the existing house at 1321 Pierce Street and immediately enlarged it. Warwick Spencer, Jr. constructed a house at 1317 Pierce, and his brother Edward built the house at 1313 Pierce Street.¹³

Of her home at 1313 Pierce, Anne wrote:

“We have a lovely home - one that
money did not buy - it was born and evolved
slowly out of our passionate, poverty-
stricken agony to own our own home.
happiness.”

⁸ “What Hampton Graduates Are Doing.” Hampton, Virginia: Hampton Institute Press. 1904. Pp. 26-27; Delaney, Ted.

“Significant People and Places in the Greater Pierce Street Neighborhood.” Unpublished manuscript. Revised 2013.

⁹ 1900 Lynchburg City Directory

¹⁰ Deed Book 69, page 520, Lynchburg Clerk of Court. 7/26/1904. J.E. Edmunds, Comr. To Warwick Spencer, Edward Spencer, and Warwick Spencer, Jr. Purchased at auction for \$2,500.

¹¹ Deed Book AA, page 222, Lynchburg Clerk of Court. 11/16/1872. Thomas J. North to Warwick Spencer (colored).

Consideration: \$400. House and lot North bought in 1867 adjoining Samuel A. Boyd and Charles Green. The deed erroneously states that the lot was on 20th Street (using the old system of street names in Lynchburg, Holliday Street might have been described as 19th Street [the 19th Street from what was 1st, or Commerce Street]). The 1881 Lynchburg City Directory lists both Warwick Spencer and Charles Green residing in the vicinity of 18th & E Streets (what would become Holliday Street was shown as “E” Street on Gray’s 1877 map, and extended from its present location (off of Campbell Avenue) westward to 13th Street. The 1890 City Directory lists Charles Green living at 1716 Holliday Street and Warwick Spencer at 1800 Holliday Street (the same address listed for Warwick in the 1900 Census). These houses were demolished prior to the construction of the Lynchburg Expressway in 1966.

¹² *Richmond Planet*, 3 August 1895; “Religious Leaders Buried in the Old City Cemetery,”

<http://www.gravegarden.org/ministers.htm>

¹³ Deed Book 85, page 366, Lynchburg Clerk of Court. 9/21/1909. Edward & Anne Spencer and Warwick & Carrie Spencer to Warwick Spencer. Lot purchased in 1904 was divided between the three parties.

The Spencers were no strangers to the Pierce Street neighborhood. As early as 1902, Edward Spencer had become a business partner with William J. Calloway, and the store at 1301 Pierce operated as “Calloway & Spencer.” Calloway died in 1907 and left the store and his personal property to Edward and Warwick Spencer, Jr., who he called his “dear friends.” The Spencer brothers continued to operate the store until 1913, when they leased it to Harry D. Logwood, who ran the business through 1920.¹⁴

The 1300 and 1400 blocks of Pierce Street remained an enclave for African Americans in 1910, with 72% of the households occupied by blacks. The 1200 and 1300 blocks of Fillmore Street were also heavily African American, as were the 1300 through 1500 blocks of Buchanan Street. These few blocks were largely surrounded by white residents for a considerable distance.¹⁵ Around 1910, Ota Benga (1883-1916), a Congolese Mbuti pygmy, lived in the apartment above the Calloway-Spencer Store at 1301 Pierce Street. He had been coerced into traveling to the United States to be exhibited in a “human zoo” in New York and Saint Louis. Later, he was relocated to Lynchburg, where he found a semblance of refuge at the Virginia Theological Seminary and College (now Virginia University of Lynchburg), and was tutored by Anne Spencer, wife of Edward Spencer. Ultimately, his sadness and anxiety over being separated from his family overcame him, and he took his own life in March of 1916.¹⁶

Another notable resident of the living quarters above the store was Amaza Lee Meredith (1895-1984), who is one of the first documented female African American architects in the United States. After receiving her Masters in Art from Columbia University in 1934, she taught at Dunbar High School in Lynchburg and founded the Art Department at Virginia State University in Petersburg.

By 1913, a second church arrived in the neighborhood when the congregation of Peaceful Baptist Church renovated Calloway Hall at 1309 Pierce Street and began using the building for religious purposes. The building is still utilized by the Wayside Gospel Temple Church of God today.

During the early 20th century, the notable Humbles Family occupied the small residence at 1301 Fillmore Street. In 1910, retail grocer Alphonza Humbles, wife Celinda, and four children were living in the house along with Marcellus Nowlin, their 13-year-old mulatto servant. Also in the home was 63-year-old Adolphus Humbles (Alphonza’s father). Adolphus Humbles (1845-1926) was a successful merchant in Campbell County, and operated the toll road between Lynchburg and Rustburg (the seat of Campbell County). He served as the Treasurer of both the Virginia State Baptist Convention and the Virginia Theological Seminary and College (now known as the Virginia University of Lynchburg), where the school’s main building bears his name. Also active in politics, he served as Chairman of the Campbell County Executive Committee for the Republican Party for thirteen years. In 1915, he constructed the large, three-story Humbles Building at 901 Fifth Street. The home was later occupied by Clara and T.P. Smith, who operated Smith’s Business College on Fifth Street.¹⁷

From 1912 to 1924, Edward Spencer served as the first African American parcel postman in Lynchburg. His wife, Anne, became involved in academic and literary pursuits as their children grew. Born in Henry County, Virginia in 1882, Anne Bethel Bannister attended the Virginia Theological Seminary and College in Lynchburg from 1893 to 1899. There, she met fellow student Edward Alexander Spencer, who helped her with mathematics and science while she tutored him in languages. Anne and Edward married in 1901 and a few years later, moved into the home at 1313 Pierce Street that Edward designed and built. They had three children: Bethel Calloway Spencer, Alroy Sarah Spencer, and Chauncey. Chauncey Edward Spencer (1906-

¹⁴ Delaney, Ted. “Pierce Street Personae.” Unpublished manuscript. Revised 2013.

¹⁵ 1910 Lynchburg City Directory

¹⁶ White, Jane B. “Pierce Street Renaissance Historic District, Lynchburg, Virginia” (brochure). Lynchburg, Virginia: Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum. 2012.

¹⁷ Smith, W. Scott. “Fifth Street Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination.” Lynchburg, Virginia: HistoryTech, LLC. 2011. Page 22; 1910 United States Federal Census, Population Schedule; Delaney, Ted. “Significant People and Places in the Greater Pierce Street Neighborhood.” Unpublished manuscript. Revised 2013.

2002) was a pioneer aviator, and received the Exceptional Civilian Service Award for service during World War II (the highest honor the U.S. Air Force could award a civilian) in 1948. In 1977, he retired to 1306 Pierce Street, where he lived for the remainder of his life.

Anne served as the librarian at Dunbar High School for over two decades, and helped form the Lynchburg Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. A prolific poet, she was the first Virginian and second African American to be included in the “Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry.” She was considered a key individual in the Harlem Renaissance period of the 1920s, and saw more than thirty of her works were published during her lifetime. Notable figures were frequently guests at the Spencer’s home at 1313 Pierce Street. Among Anne and Edward’s guests included Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, George Washington Carver, Langston Hughes, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the early 1930s, Professor Frank Trigg (1850-1933) and his wife Ellen Preston Taylor (1858-1936) resided at 1422 Pierce Street, which had been constructed twenty years earlier by notable white architect James T. McLaughlin (partner with Stanhope S. Johnson). Frank Trigg was born into slavery at the Executive Mansion in Richmond, as his parents were servants of Governor John B. Floyd. Trigg attended Hampton Institute and became the first black male teacher and first black high school principal in the Lynchburg school system. In 1890, he founded the Virginia Collegiate and Industrial Institute (a branch of Morgan State College in Baltimore), which was located off of Campbell Avenue in Lynchburg. He later served as Principal of Princess Anne Academy in Maryland and President of Bennett College in North Carolina. Ellen Preston Taylor also graduated from Hampton Institute and served as a public school teacher in Lynchburg. After Professor Trigg’s death, their son, Frank R. Trigg (a physician whose office was on Fifth Street) lived with his mother at 1422 Pierce until her death in 1936.

The next year, in 1937, Dr. Walter Johnson (1899-1971) purchased the house at 1422 Pierce Street. He attended Meharry Medical School and had a practice on Fifth Street (Lynchburg’s African American commercial center) for many years. Dr. Johnson was the first black physician to earn staff privileges at Lynchburg General Hospital, and Centra Health’s Johnson Health Center on Federal Street is named in his honor. While his medical career was notable, Johnson is also known for his active involvement in youth athletics. He founded the Junior Development Program with the cooperation of the American Tennis Association, and hosted summer tennis clinics at his home on Pierce Street, which boasted a clay tennis court on an adjacent lot. Two of the many young African Americans who trained at Johnson’s residence were Wimbledon champions Arthur Ashe and Althea Gibson. Non-tennis players also frequented the Johnson home, including Duke Ellington, Count Bayse, Lionel Hampton, and Jackie Robinson. Johnson was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2009.

In 1940, the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Pierce Street remained a bastion of Lynchburg’s African American, with 84% of the households containing black families. As in previous decades, self-segregation seemed to occur on a block-by-block basis rather than across entire neighborhoods. While the 600, 700, and 1700 blocks of Pierce Street were heavily African American, the 800-1200 and 1500-1600 blocks were almost all comprised of white households. The former Calloway-Spencer Store at 1301 Pierce was operated as Hamilton’s Cash Store, and the combination dwelling/store at 1423 Pierce was operated as a grocery by Charles Simmons (both Hamilton and Simmons were white businessmen).¹⁸

Also by 1940, African American dentist Henry P. Weeden and his wife Margaret Pauline Fletcher had moved from Fifth Street to the home at 1316 Buchanan Street. Pauline, or “Polly” as she was commonly known, received her undergraduate degree from Howard University and her Masters of Arts from Columbia University. She worked at Dunbar High School for forty years, where she was a teacher, guidance counselor, and administrative principal. Later known as Pauline Weeden Maloney, she served on the board of the Central Virginia Planning District Commission, was the first black woman appointed to the Lynchburg City School Board, and was the first black elected President of the Southern Regional School Boards Association.

¹⁸ 1940 Lynchburg City Directory

Polly was the first female Rector of the Norfolk State University Board of Visitors, and from 1957 to 1961, served as the third National President of The Links, Incorporated. She died in Lynchburg in 1987.¹⁹

In 1951, Clarence William Seay (1900-1982) and his wife Clara Majors (1901-1978) began living in the brick home at 1300 Pierce Street. Seay served as the Principal of Dunbar High School from 1938-1968, and led the school through the years of the Civil Rights Movement and integration. After retiring from the Lynchburg City School System, he was a member of the faculty at Lynchburg College, and became Lynchburg's first modern-day black City Council member (he was also the first black Vice Mayor of the City). Seay was the President of the Virginia State Teachers Association and was the first high school principal to be President of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.²⁰

The last quarter of the 20th century ushered the passing of many of the district's great African American educators, physicians, writers, and businesspeople with Edward Spencer in 1964, Walter Johnson in 1971, Anne Spencer in 1975, Clarence W. Seay in 1982, and Pauline Weeden Maloney in 1987. Pioneer aviator Chauncey Spencer died in 2002. In 1976, the Anne Spencer House at 1313 Pierce Street was listed in the National Register of Historic Places followed by the Dr. Walter Johnson House and Tennis Court at 1422 Pierce Street in 2002. Since Anne Spencer's death, the Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum, Inc. has been working to restore and maintain the Spencer property, beginning with a restoration of the gardens to their 1930s appearance in 1984. In 2005, Lynchburg City Council adopted a zoning ordinance creating the Pierce Street Renaissance (local) Historic District.

The proposed district is thought to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (local level) for its association with African American culture and under Criterion B (national level) as the location of the primary homes of poet Anne Spencer and physician/tennis coach R. Walter Johnson during their periods of maximum productivity and contribution to society.

¹⁹ "Past National President Pauline Weeden Maloney." <http://www.linksinc.org/maloney.shtml>

²⁰ White, Jane B. "Pierce Street Renaissance Historic District, Lynchburg, Virginia" (brochure). Lynchburg, Virginia: Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum. 2012; "Clarence W. Seay: Man of Principles," <http://legacymuseum.org/newsletters/clarence-seay-man-of-principles>

Sponsor (Individual and/or organization, with contact information. For more than one sponsor, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	City of Lynchburg		
	(Name)		
900 Church Street	Lynchburg	VA	24504
(Address)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Kevin.henry@lynchburgva.gov	434-455-3915		
(Email Address)	(Daytime telephone including area code)		

In the event of organization sponsorship, you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: Kevin Henry, Planner II, Department of Planning & Community Development

Daytime Telephone: (434) 455-3915

Applicant Information (Individual completing form)

Mr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	W. Scott Smith & Emily Patton Smith			HistoryTech, LLC
Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	(Name)	(Firm)		
P.O. Box 75	Lynchburg	VA	24505	
(Address)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)	
scott@historytech.com	434-401-3995			
(Email Address)	(Daytime telephone including area code)			

Applicant's Signature:

Date: 2/28/13

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Kimball Payne			City Manager
Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	(Name)	(Position)		
City of Lynchburg	900 Church Street			
(Locality)	(Address)			
Lynchburg	VA	24504	434-455-3990	
(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)	(Daytime telephone including area code)	

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this district.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☐ No ☒

Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☐ No ☒